

PEDESTRIAN-BICYCLIST SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

July 19, 2018 – 9:30am

Houston-Galveston Area Council

3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor, Houston, Texas 77027 (Agency Conference Room 2B)

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Primary Member Present</u>	<u>Alternate Member Present</u>
BikeHouston	Clark Martinson	
City of Conroe	Lauren Arnold	
City of Houston	Melissa Beeler	
City of League City		Susan Oyler
City of Missouri City	Jennifer Hobbs	
City of Pearland		
City of Sugar Land		
City of Webster	Evan DuVall	
Brazoria County		
Energy Corridor District		
Harris County		
H-GAC		Clint McManus
Houston Parks Board	Lisa Graiff	
METRO	Yuhayna McCoy	
TxDOT – Houston District	Ana Ramirez Huerta	
The Woodlands Township	John McGowan	
Westchase District	Louis Jullien, IV	

<u>Other Interested Parties Present</u>	<u>H-GAC Transportation Staff Present</u>
Ms. Adele Houghton, Air Alliance	Diane Dohm, H-GAC
Ms. Callie Barnes, TxDOT	Lucinda Martinez, H-GAC
Robert Benz, TTI	Vishu Lingala, H-GAC
Jonathan Brooks, LINK Houston	Eric Gayetsky, H-GAC
Oni Blair, LINK Houston	
Steve Ratke, FHWA (On phone)	
Bonnie Sherman, TxDOT –Public Transportation (On phone)	
Michael Huffmaster –Complete Streets Coalition	
Mauricio Victorino – City of Sugar Land	

1. Call to Order/Certify Quorum and Introductions

Chair Louis Jullien called the meeting to order and confirmed that Quorum was met. The members of the Pedestrian-Bicyclist Subcommittee introduced themselves for the record.

2. Public Comments

A public comment was made by Mr. Michael Huffmaster, Complete Streets Coalition.

On behalf of The Complete Streets Coalition, Mr. Huffmaster expressed interest in working with the H-GAC's Pedestrian-Bicyclist subcommittee in developing the criteria for the prioritization of sidewalk development and buildouts in the City of Houston. The Complete Streets Coalition looks at the proximity to major thoroughfares, public facilities, schools, and corridors as well as areas that need walkable sidewalks. The coalition would like to join the efforts in sidewalk surveys that are now being conducted by the subcommittee and the city planning department in developing a broad plan for the prioritization of sidewalks.

3. Approval of Minutes for April 19, 2018 (Chair Louis Jullien)

The minutes of the April 19, 2018 meeting of the Pedestrian-Bicyclist Subcommittee were approved as presented.

DISCUSSION

4. Analysis of Pedestrian and Bicycle Crashes in Houston (Ms. Oni Blair and Mr. Jonathan Brooks, LINK Houston)

Ms. Oni Blair briefed the subcommittee on the LINK Houston's bicycle crash analysis study and online map. Ms. Blair explained to the committee that this analysis was at the request of the Mayor of Houston to identify the ten most dangerous intersections in Houston for pedestrians and bicyclists. LINK Houston has collaborated with different organizations such as Bike Houston to facilitate this research. Ms. Blair also mentioned that this analysis would pinpoint what intersections and corridors impacted pedestrians and bicyclists the most and to also look to facilitate methods to increase pedestrian and bicyclist safety in the Houston area.

Mr. Jonathan Brooks briefed the subcommittee on the methodology used to complete this research as well as reviewed the most dangerous intersections, statistics, and various details that make these intersections dangerous. Mr. Brooks also reviewed the next steps and the agencies that will work toward investigating reasons behind pedestrian and bicyclist crashes and implementing methods to decrease their occurrence.

A brief question, answer, and comments by members followed this presentation.

5. Health Impact Assessment – I-45 (Ms. Adele Houghton, Air Alliance Houston)

Ms. Houghton briefed the subcommittee on the health impact assessment Air Alliance will conduct on the I-45 expansion project. This assessment will include the highway expansion for I-45 from Beltway 8 to Midtown with funding received from the Urban Institute, Robert

Wood Johnson Foundation. Ms. Houghton explained this presentation would focus on pedestrian-bicycle impact concerns as well as concerns regarding air quality, mobility, low-income communities, economic development, parks and green space, noise, and views.

Ms. Houghton also explained there are school campuses that are located close to I-45 today and the distance between the schools and I-45 will decrease after expansion. She also mentioned after preliminary analysis, there were numerous pedestrian related and bicycle related traffic crashes near the schools that are located next to the I-45 corridor. Ms. Houghton said vulnerable school age children are the focus of this assessment. The study would research how these children might be impacted by the expansion and if there are ways to mitigate the impact. Ms. Houghton mentioned Air Alliance is in the process of developing the methodology to facilitate the assessment and will begin in the late summer or early fall of 2018. The report will be issued in February 2019.

A brief question and answer period as well as comments by members followed this presentation

6. Call for Projects (Mr. Vishu Lingala, H-GAC)

Mr. Vishu Lingala, H-GAC, updated the subcommittee on 2018 Call for Projects. Mr. Lingala mentioned the Technical Advisory Committee of July 18, 2018 has pushed back the start of the Call for Projects for 30 days due to some issues that need to be resolved. Mr. Lingala informed the subcommittee regarding changes in the investment category. Initially the minimum Federal participation amount was \$500,000 for all transportation projects. The revised requirement allows for a minimum participation amount for roadways of \$500,000 and \$150,000 for Transit and Active transportation. Mr. Lingala also briefed the committee on how projects would be categorized. The Major Investments category would include projects of over \$100 million and Other Investments would include projects under \$100 million. Active Transportation would be included in this category. Mr. Lingala also briefed the committee on other scoring factors and readiness criteria and available funding for the 2018 Call for Project as well for the next 10 years as well as future Call for Projects. Mr. Lingala also reviewed the application process for the committee. Committee members made comments. Mr. Lingala answered questions from the subcommittee during and after his presentation.

7. NEPA and Bike Lane Projects (Ms. Callie Barnes, TxDOT)

Ms. Callie Barnes, TxDOT, updated the committee on recent changes to the NEPA process for bike lane projects. Ms. Barnes briefed the subcommittee on the environmental classification for Bike and Pedestrian projects and recent changes in the environmental clearance process. Ms. Barnes also let the subcommittee know that Bike and Pedestrian projects are classified as CE C (3) and can be approved at the district level and do not need additional approval at the state level. Ms. Barnes also informed the subcommittee on changes to the Public hearing requirements for Bike and Pedestrian projects. This change

requires projects that receive Federal funding and involve a substantial change to a highway must hold a public meeting. Ms. Barnes also briefed the subcommittee on project scope development tools.

A lengthy question and answer period followed Ms. Barnes presentation.

8. TxDOT Statewide Ped-Bike Database (Mr. Robert Benz, TTI)

Mr. Robert Benz, TTI, provided information on the TxDOT Ped-Bike Database project. Mr. Benz gave the subcommittee an overview of the database and said the database was created for TxDOT and other agencies to gather information to make informed decisions and answer questions such as:

- What type of facilities do people use most?
- What attributes are around those facilities?
- Land use?

Mr. Benz also described the many types of data that can be collected and entered into this database. Mr. Benz also requested the assistance from all agencies in collecting information and asked them to enter their information into this database so that others can use this information for their pedestrian and bicycle planning efforts. Mr. Benz also mentioned this database would be standardized to accept data from all types of vendor collection formats. During the presentation, Mr. Benz demonstrated on how data would be entered into the database and how to manipulate the information. This database would allow a statewide monitoring process for pedestrian and bicyclists.

A short questions and answer period followed this presentation.

INFORMATION

9. Report on Status of Pedestrian-Bicyclist Activities from Members (Chair Louis Jullien)

Chair Jullien invited subcommittee members to briefly discuss current and future walking and biking efforts in their communities. Subcommittee members and others provided updates.

10. Chair Jullien informed the subcommittee members that Ms. Diane Dohm, H-GAC Bicycle-Pedestrian planner, would be leaving H-GAC and accepting a position with the Oahu MPO in Hawaii and this would be her last meeting at H-GAC. Chair Jullien requested a round of applause for her efforts on behalf of the subcommittee and wished her well in her new position. A question regarding a pending workshop was discussed and resolved.

Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting October 18, 2018 at 9:30am in H-GAC Conference Room B/C